

## **Health care financing in the Asia Pacific region**

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The Asia-Pacific region is in a period of transition as some economies grow, populations age, and health care needs change. Changes in the region's burden of disease, the 'graduation' of countries from low to middle income status, and the shifting geography of poverty and health needs of the poor all have implications for country health systems and health care financing.

The study provides an overview of the challenges of financing health care in the region as many countries strive to achieve universal health coverage. It covers thirty countries broadly divided as middle income countries, low income countries, and fragile and small island states.

Specifically, the study examines the impact of the changing burden of disease in the region on health financing; current and medium term trends in domestic financing and external development aid for health; the changing configuration of aid providers in the region including the future role of non-traditional bilateral donors; the current and changing nature of donor engagement; and how development assistance for health is allocated and used. The paper concludes with reflections on the implications for development partners, discussing how policy issues can be tackled, how aid modalities should develop and where donor assistance could be focused to maximise impact.

The paper is based on a desk based literature review and key informant interviews.